

The loss of these Americans—indeed, the loss of any life to war—fills us with sorrow and strengthens our resolve to work for peace. Yet it would be a great injustice to our fallen service members to observe this day solely as one of mourning. On this Memorial Day, our hearts should swell with thankfulness and pride as we reflect on our Nation's heritage of liberty.

Gen. James A. Garfield was the main speaker at the first national Memorial Day on May 30, 1868 at the National Cemetery in Arlington. He best expressed the utmost respect and reverence we as a nation should have for those who lost their lives in defense of our country, and its ideals.

I am oppressed with a sense of impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men whose lives were more significant than speech and whose death was a poem the music of which can never be sung. With words we make promises, plight faith, praise virtue. Promises may not be kept; plighted faith may be broken; and vaunted virtue be only the cunning mask of vice. We do not know one promise these men made, one pledge they gave, one word they spoke; but we do know they summed up and perfected, by one supreme act, the highest virtues of men and citizens. For love of country they accepted death, and thus resolved all doubts, and made immortal their patriotism and virtue.

I, too, have no illusions about what little I can add to the silent testimony of those who gave their lives willingly for their country. Yet, we must honor them—not for their sakes alone, but for our own. And if words cannot repay the debt we owe these men and women, surely with our actions we must strive to keep faith with them and with the vision that led them to battle and to final sacrifice.

As one looks out across the rows upon rows of white crosses and Stars of David in military cemeteries in our country and across the world, the willingness of some to give their lives so that others might live never fails to evoke in me a sense of wonder and gratitude. They span several generations of Americans, all different and yet all alike, like the markers above their resting places.

And how they must have wished, in all the ugliness that war brings, that no other generation of young men would have to undergo that same experience. At this time each year we should instill in every generation, now and yet to come, a deep appreciation and full understanding of the meaning of why they died. The sacrifices we remember on Memorial Day must be made meaningful to every new generation of Americans, so that those sacrifices shall not have been made in vain.

The passage of years has dimmed the memories of many who have witnessed the destruction and tragedy of war, but we need only look at the "reminders" of the price of freedom paid in places such as Gettysburg, Omaha Beach, Normandy, and "Hamburger Hill." Each is a name that invokes memories of patriotism and valor. Each reminds us that our Nation was founded on the belief that our democratic ideals are worth fighting for and, if necessary, worth dying for. We have a sacred obligation to remember for all time the names and the deeds of the Americans who paid that price for our freedom. Memorial Day has now become an occasion for honoring all those who died protecting that freedom. One reminder, engraved in the stone memorial at the Omaha Beach Cemetery, eloquently states,

"To these we owe our highest resolve, that the cause for which they died shall live."

Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is a day to honor Americans who gave their lives for their country. It is their deaths, not the wars which claimed them, that we honor today. This day is our way of keeping alive the spirits and accomplishments of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It is a time of reflection, it is a time of honor, it is a time of renewal. Today, and every day, we must remember what was sacrificed for the many freedoms we enjoy today. We must honor those who made that sacrifice for us. And we must renew our commitment to the ideals which their sacrifices preserved, always with the hope that future generations of Americans will never need to make those same sacrifices.

SIXTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BESFI

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Madame Valia Seiskaya and the Ballet Education and Scholarship fund, Inc. (BESFI) on the occasion of the fund's 16th anniversary. Madame Seiskaya is a cofounder and current director of BESFI, and it is appropriate that she receive the honors she so richly deserves. Madame Valia Seiskaya has elevated the standards by which all ballet teachers are judged while enriching the cultural life of Long Island immeasurably.

Her students have won awards and scholarships far too numerous to mention. If one had to pick a defining moment it would be in 1994, when Michael Cusumano, a 14 year old pupil of Madame Seiskaya, won not only a bronze Medal and Special recognition at the 16th International Ballet Competition in Bulgaria, but a Gold Medal level Jury Award at the 6th Prix de Danse, in Paris, France.

A leader in dance education, Madame Seiskaya was honored at the Varna, Bulgaria competition with a nomination for best teacher and coach.

Under Madame Seiskaya's leadership BESFI has developed several programs ranging from a scholarship program, a stipend support program, and the renowned Summer Intensive Workshop, which draw students from across the Metropolitan area. Some have gone on to join the New York City Ballet, the Joffrey Ballet, and the American Ballet Theater.

Madame Seiskaya and BESFI have enriched the education and artistic maturity of scores of young dancers. I wish them continued success in all their endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD O. BROOK

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Donald O. Brook who is being honored this evening by the Clinton Township

Goodfellows. He is being named as a Goodfellow of the Year at a recognition dinner at the Fern Hill Country Club in Clinton Township, MI.

Donald Brook is currently Deputy Chief of Police in the Clinton Township Police Department. During his 26 years of service he has served the people of Clinton Township faithfully in his role as a police officer. During this time, Deputy Chief Brook managed to earn four college degrees, including a doctorate from Wayne State University in Administration and Supervision.

In addition to applying his academic knowledge in his profession as a police officer, Chief Deputy Brook teaches at Macomb Community College and Central Michigan University. As an adjunct faculty member of both institutions, he teaches students in the areas of criminal justice and management and supervision.

Taking an active role in one's community is a responsibility we all share, but few fulfill. Donald Brook has dedicated much of his life to this endeavor. His time, talents, and energy are appreciated by many. I thank Donald Brook for his efforts and commend him for his good work.

I applaud the Clinton Township Goodfellows for recognizing Chief Deputy Donald Brook. For 25 years, nearly as long as he has been an officer of the law, Donald Brook has also served the community-at-large as a Goodfellow. He has provided outstanding leadership to the community of Clinton Township and I am sure he is proud to be honored by the Goodfellows.

The devotion the Goodfellows and Chief Deputy Brook have displayed to their community is an inspection. Their contributions are many and they deserve our gratitude for their compassion and work.

On behalf of the Clinton Township Goodfellows, I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting Doctor and Chief Deputy Donald Brook.

CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF MARK JAFFE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we have in recent weeks spent a great deal of time talking about educational opportunities for our young people, and the value of education. We should never forget that the quality of education is most dependent upon the people who are involved in the day to day efforts to make our schools the best in the world.

The people who have been served by the Essexville-Hampton Public School system have had the good fortune of twenty-eight years of service from Mark Jaffe as a trustee of the Essexville-Hampton Board of Education from July 1966 to 1970 and 1972-73, and as its President from 1971 to 1972, and again from 1973 to the present. He is recognized as a tenacious doers, who has always acted on his belief of what was best for the school system, even if that meant taking unpopular stands.

And the Essexville-Hampton Public Schools are better because of it. During his tenure, Mr. Jaffe was responsible for the establishment of